

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 10, 17, 19 and 20 contain patentable subject matter.

II. OBJECTION WITH RESPECT TO DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to for alleged informalities. In particular, the Examiner maintains that reference 428 is not mentioned in the specification. Applicants respectfully draw the attention of the Examiner to, for example, the specification at page 9, line 13. Since reference 428 is mentioned in the specification, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn with respect to the drawings.

III. OBJECTION WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to parts of the specification. Applicants have amended the specification in view of the informalities noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn with respect to the specification.

IV. OBJECTION WITH RESPECT TO CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-20 for noted informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 14-16, 19 and 20 to overcome the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn with respect to claims 1-20.

V. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1. In particular, the Examiner notes that the phrase "round robin" is not described adequately in the specification to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art understands the phrase "round robin". In addition to, for example, page 10, lines 28-31, Applicants respectfully draw the attention of the Examiner to, for example, page 13, lines 8-10.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, be withdrawn with respect to claims 11 and 18.

Claims 2 and 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. In particular, the Examiner alleges that "N" is indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 2, 9 and 14 to further define "N" as an integer. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, be withdrawn with respect to claims 2 and 9-20.

VI. CLAIMS 8 AND 11 IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

Since Applicants have traversed the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, with respect to claims 8 and 11 and since the Examiner did not find at least these elements in the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

VII. ANTICIPATION REJECTION

Claims 1, 3-9 and 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Publication No. 2002/0131390 A1 ("Kuo").

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "receiving, by said plurality of fingers, said at least one inter-finger interference cancellation signal, wherein different ones of the plurality of fingers can receive different ones of said at least one inter-finger interference cancellation signal". Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in FIGS. 4 and 5 of the present application. For example, Applicants respectfully draw the attention of the Examiner to the inter-finger IC signal 520 that couples the IC Summer 506 of FIG. 5 and the IC Subtract 402 of FIG. 4. Kuo does not describe at least these elements as set forth in amended claim 1. In Kuo, the fingers 302 only receive the output of the subtractor 328. Thus, the fingers 302 do not receive any interference cancellation signals. Furthermore, Kuo does not describe any scenario by which different fingers 302 can receive different interference cancellation signals.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn with respect to claim 1 and its rejected dependent claims (i.e., claims 3-8).

Claim 9 recites "synthesizing N inter-finger interference cancellation signals, each of said N inter-finger interference cancellation signals being synthesized on the basis of one or more of said N weighted intra-finger interference cancellation signals; and subtracting each of said N inter-finger interference cancellation signals from a corresponding one of said N data signals,

thereby generating N interference-reduced data signals". Kuo does not describe at least these elements. In Kuo, although there are N fingers 302, there are not N inter-finger interference cancellation signals. In FIG. 3 of Kuo, it appears that there is really only one reconstructed SCH signal subtracted at subtractor 328.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn with respect to claim 9 and its rejected dependent claims (i.e., claims 12 and 13).

Claim 14 recites "an inter-finger interference cancellation module for synthesizing N inter-finger interference cancellation signals". Kuo does not describe at least these elements. In Kuo, although there are N fingers 302, there are not N inter-finger interference cancellation signals. In FIG. 3 of Kuo, it appears that there is really only one reconstructed SCH signal subtracted at subtractor 328.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn with respect to claim 14 and its rejected dependent claims (i.e., claims 15 and 16).

VIII. OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kuo in view of United States Patent No. 6,718,162 B1 ("Agin"). Claim 1, from which claim 2 depends, has been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that the teaching deficiencies of Kuo with respect to claim 1 are not made up by the teachings of Agin. Since claim 1 is not obvious over Kuo in view of Agin, claim 2, which depends from claim 1, also is not obvious over Kuo in view of Agin. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the obviousness rejection be withdrawn with respect to claim 2.

IX. ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

Applicants respectfully request that the attorney docket number be changed to "16133US02".

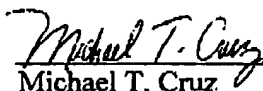
X. CONCLUSION

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Please charge any required fees not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: January 26, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


Michael T. Cruz
Reg. No. 44,636

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2565
Telephone: (312) 775-8084
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100